

REMARKS

In the specification, Paragraph [0019] is replaced by an amended Paragraph [0019] because of a typographical error in the specification as filed. Reference number 30 was inadvertently used to identify both a golf cart wheel and an idler wheel or other means for limiting linear movement of a wheel. The means for limiting linear movement of a wheel is correctly identified as 32.

Figure 2 is amended to show cleaning member 18 using phantom lines. Figure 3 is amended to correct a typographical error, wherein reference number 32 was incorrectly shown as 30. A line to aperture 26 was also inserted in Figure 3. Replacement sheets and annotated marked-up sheets are located in the appendix in the pages immediately after the signature page.

Status of claims

Claims 1 through 17 were filed in the case. Independent claims 1, 15, 16, and 17 are amended with this Office Action response. Dependent claim 14 is currently amended. New claims 18 and 19 are added.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

The Examiner currently rejects Claims 1 through 17 as anticipated under §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 4,233,703 to Clyne et al. The Examiner further rejects Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 8 through 17 as anticipated under §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 3,729,763 to Coley, and Claims 1, 2, and 8 through 17 as anticipated under §102(b) by U.S. Patent No. 1,909,869 to Randrup.

U.S. Patent No. 4,233,703 to Clyne et al. (the '703 patent) teaches a wheel cleaning apparatus comprising a platform wherein all of the brushes are located below the platform level. Clyne's invention is only coin operated. The '703 patent teaches a rotating brush, and there are no retaining walls.

U.S. Patent No. 3,729,763 to Coley (the '763 patent) teaches an apparatus for contacting and washing only an outer portion of a car wheel. The '763 patent washes car tires, and the invention does not include an aperture or retaining walls.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Three (3) replacement sheets of drawings are herein submitted.

FIG.1

No changes were made to FIG. 1.

FIG. 2

One of the cleaning members, reference number 18, was changed to phantom lines.

FIG. 3

Element 30 (Idler wheel) was changed to element 32. The appropriate changes to the specification are also herein amended. Additionally, element 26 was lacking a line. The line was inserted, similar to element 26 in FIG. 1.

U.S. Patent No. 1,909,869 to Randrup (the '869 patent) teaches an apparatus to wash car tires comprising a platform, a motor and drive member to spin a wheel, and brushes to clean the wheel. However, the Randrup invention cleans only an inner portion and an outer portion of wheels; it does not clean the tread of the tire, nor does the invention include retaining walls.

Claim 1 has been amended to particularly point out that the at least one cleaning member is positioned above the platform and the at least one cleaning member is adapted to remove debris from each of an inner portion, outer portion, and tread portion of a wheel while the wheel is being rotated. Amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by the '703 patent to Clyne because, unlike the '703 patent, the at least one cleaning member is positioned above the platform. Amended Claim 1 is not anticipated by the '763 patent to Coley or the '869 patent to Randrup because the at least one cleaning member is adapted to remove debris from each of the inner portion, outer portion, and tread portion of the wheel. Neither the '763 patent to Coley nor the '869 patent to Randrup teach cleaning of the tread portion of the wheel.

Claim 15 has been amended to clarify that the at least one cleaning member is positioned above the platform and the at least one cleaning member is adapted to remove debris from a tread portion of a wheel while the wheel is being rotated. Amended Claim 15 is not anticipated by the '703 patent to Clyne because unlike the '703 patent, the at least one cleaning member is positioned above the platform. Amended Claim 15 is not anticipated by the '763 patent to Coley or the '869 patent to Randrup because the at least one cleaning member is adapted to remove debris from the tread portion of the wheel, and neither the '763 patent to Coley nor the '869 patent to Randrup teach cleaning of the tread portion of the wheel.

Claim 16 has been amended to clarify that the means for removing debris are adapted to remove debris simultaneously from each of an inner portion, outer portion, and tread portion of a wheel while the wheel is being rotated. Further, the means for removing debris are affixed to at least one upstanding wall extending upwardly adjacent to at least one wheel rotator. Amended Claim 16 is not anticipated by the '703 patent to Clyne because, unlike the '703 patent, the means for removing debris is affixed to an upstanding wall. Amended Claim 16 is not anticipated by the '763 patent to Coley or the '869 patent to Randrup because the means for removing debris is adapted to remove debris from each of the inner portion, outer portion, and tread portion of the

wheel. Neither the '763 patent to Coley nor the '869 patent to Randrup teach cleaning the tread portion of the wheel.

Claim 17 has been amended to particularly point out that there are three upstanding walls extending upwardly around each aperture. Amended Claim 17 is not anticipated by the '703 patent to Clyne, the '763 patent to Coley, or the '869 patent to Randrup because none of these references teach upstanding walls extending upwardly around the apertures.

New claims 18, 19, and 20 depend from claims 1, 16, and 17, respectively.

There are several advantages to locating cleaning members above the platform as opposed to beneath the platform as in the '703 patent to Clyne. A position above the platform allows for easier maintenance, cleaning, and replacement of the cleaning member. Further, various shapes and sizes of cleaning members can be used.

In view of the foregoing arguments and claim amendments, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 through 20 are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the applicant requests prompt reconsideration of the rejections by the Examiner and issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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